(c) if so, the time by which such universities are likely to be set up and in what manner the control on such universities would be exercised?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The work on setting up the first PIO/NRI university will commence soon. The Ministry has constituted an Advisory Board consisting of officers from the concerned Ministries/Departments and the University Grants Commission (UGC), Medical Council of India (MCI), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) etc.

**Steps to tackle racial attacks**

59. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry and Ministry of External Affairs have jointly decided to create a permanent institutional framework to tackle the growing threat of racist attacks on young Indian students in Australia;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard so far;

(c) whether the incidents of racist attacks on young Indian students in Australia are increasing inspite of initiative taken by Government to curb such incidents; and

(d) if so, the further reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no joint decision to create a permanent institutional framework to tackle the threat of attacks on Indian students in Australia. The issue has been taken up by the Government of India with the Government of Australia at the highest levels. The Indian High Commission in Canberra and the Consulates General in Melbourne and Sydney have been following up the matter with the federal and State authorities in Australia.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Effect on Indian workers due to recession**

60. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the large scale exodus of Indian workers in Gulf countries due to the global economic slow down and recession in those countries;

(b) if so, the details of the Indian workers, State-wise, who returned to India due to loss of job since the effect of economic slow down started; and

(c) the measures that are proposed to be taken for their rehabilitation in their respective States?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Indian Missions in Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar have informed that there has been no report of any large scale exodus of workers, though there has been report of some job losses because of global economic slowdown and recession. The Indian Mission in United Arab Emirates (UAE) has reported that accurate figures of return of Indian workers are not available. It is estimated that ranging from 50,000 to 1,50,000 workers have returned to India as a result of the delay in execution of projects due to economic slow down and recession. They have further informed that most of the workers have returned to India on leave without pay with the expectation that they would be able to return to work in the UAE once the situation improves. At the same time, 432802 workers have been given emigration clearance for new employment in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries between January and May, 2009.

**Indian students in foreign countries**

61. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of Indian citizens living overseas for the purpose of pursuing academic curriculum in universities and colleges there, country-wise;

(b) whether Government has been seized of the past incidents of racial discrimination including physical violence faced by Indian students in foreign countries *viz*., Australia, Germany in particular;

(c) if so, the details of such incidents which occurred in the recent past indicating steps initiated by Governments of the respective countries and that of India in response thereto; and

(d) the details of steps taken in response to violent attack in person on Indian citizens studying in Australia?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) The exact number of Indian students abroad is not known as most of them do not register themselves with Indian Diplomatic Missions/Posts abroad. Approximate number of Indian students as available, country-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement-I. (*See* below)

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Details on attacks involving Indian nationals are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 217 Annexure No. 5] A few cases of attacks may have had a racial aspect, as mentioned in the list in bold letters.

(d) Details are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to USQ No. 25 Pt (e) and (f)]